



# Right to Housing

# in Toronto

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP  
Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

June 26, 2019

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

The Right2HousingTO Campaign commends the Government of Canada on the enactment of the *National Housing Strategy Act* as part of Bill C-97 (the *Budget Implementation Act, 2019*). With the enactment of the *National Housing Strategy Act*, we celebrate a historic achievement in Canada. This legislation recognizes housing as a human right for the first time in Canada and acknowledges the role of housing in ensuring human dignity and building sustainable and inclusive communities. This approach also recognizes the key role of housing in achieving social, economic, health and environmental goals, and focuses on improving housing outcomes for those in greatest need.

The Right2HousingTO Campaign is a group of individuals and organizational supporters that have come together to advocate for a rights-based approach to housing in Toronto. As part of this larger group, the Right2HousingTO Campaign includes Acorn Canada, Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO), Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA), Emily Paradis (Independent Researcher), Federation of Metro Tenants' Association (FMTA), Joy Connelly (Housing Consultant and Advocate), and Maytree.

With the passage of this Act, Canada joins nations like South Africa, Scotland, and France in enshrining the right to housing in law, and assumes a leadership role in addressing the global housing crisis.

We specifically congratulate the Government of Canada for including in the Act the participation of civil society, communities facing housing disadvantage, and people with lived experience of inadequate housing and homelessness to shape and implement a long-term vision for housing and to ensure access to adequate housing for those in greatest need. Additionally, the creation of a Housing Advocate and a National Housing Council will provide the accountability structure necessary to ensure the vision outlined in the legislation becomes a reality.

We are confident that your leadership will inspire other jurisdictions in Canada to recognize and implement the human right to housing. Indeed, following your Government's example, Toronto's City Council has committed to consider a rights-based approach in the development of our City's 10-year housing plan, which is currently underway. We are thrilled that your leadership has catalyzed action elsewhere in the country and look forward to working with our partners at the City of Toronto to ensure Toronto's plan measures up to the vision outlined in the *National Housing Strategy Act*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ABG', with a large loop at the end.

Alyssa Brierley  
Executive Director and General Counsel  
Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA)

On behalf of:  
The Right2HousingTO Campaign

Cc:

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, PC, MP, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development

Adam Vaughan, MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development (Housing and Urban Affairs)

John Tory, Mayor, City of Toronto

Ana Bailão, Deputy Mayor, City of Toronto

Katie Telford, Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

Michael McNair, Executive Director (Policy), Office of the Prime Minister of Canada

Sean Gadon, Executive Director Housing Secretariat, City of Toronto